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USSR GOVERNMENT URGES SHARP INCREASE
IN PRODUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

MINISTER YUDIN POINTS OUT SHORTCOMINGS -- Moscow Vechernyaya Moskva, 19 Aug 50

In a speech made at the conference of workers of construction materials industry in the Moscow City Committee of VKP(b), Minister Yudin pointed out that it would be insufficient to exceed the 1950 plan by 5 or 10 percent. Despite a considerable increase in the output of construction materials since the war, the construction materials industry is still seriously lagging behind the growing demands of national economy and is hampering the further development of construction.

There is still a shortage of asbestos-cement pipes, slate products, as well as gypsum, dry plaster, and ceramic blocks. The quality of bricks, ceramic products, and facing materials continues to be unsatisfactory.

The present production level of the construction materials industry does not satisfy the country. It is necessary to exceed the plan considerably in 1950, and to improve the quality of the materials. Unfortunately, a number of enterprises of Moscow City and Oblast adhere to the principle: "Take what we give you, or you won't get anything."

Brick plants should be so organized that the bricks are delivered direct to the construction projects. For this purpose, it is necessary to use containers on a wider scale, loading the bricks into containers as they come out of the kilns and shipping them direct to construction sites. The general usage of containers is very important. But to make this possible it is equally important to keep the grounds and approaches of brick plants in perfect condition. Unfortunately, until now many of the plants are drowning in mud and the grounds are cluttered with waste products. Trucks with trailers have a hard time getting near the kilns of such enterprises. The introduction of the container system must not be delayed any longer.

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The brick industry still employs too much manual labor and too little mechanization. As long as the problem of complete mechanization has not been solved in all brick plants, the construction materials industry will not become a leading branch of industry.

Production costs of construction materials should be sharply decreased; this will lower the cost of construction. It is not a question of a 3 or 4-percent reduction in cost, but the materials should be 40-50 percent cheaper than they are now.

Some of the technical engineering workers are still opposed to mechanization. At one of the plants, the opinion was openly expressed that mechanization was the enemy of quality. This backward attitude of mind must not be tolerated any longer!

The Ministry of Construction Materials Industry must give Moscow builders 400,000 square meters of ceramic face tiles in 1951. Eighty percent of all housing construction projects are to be supplied with ceramic facing material in 1952.

The quality of cement is still poor. Cement plants are not making any efforts to produce the high-grade types of cement which are required.

The Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building is not giving the construction materials industry enough help. A number of workers in the Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building apparently are still under the impression that bricks are made by hand.

A few words should be added about ceramic blocks, an effective building material. In July 1950, the Cheremushki Plant produced 260,000 such blocks. This material was ordered by 20 customers. However, only one of the customers used the blocks correctly, taking into consideration the insulating quality of this material and reducing the thickness of the walls accordingly. The other builders used the blocks like common bricks. Such waste of material should not be tolerated.

Adequate preparations should be made for the winter, so there would be no drop in production in enterprises of the construction materials industry, as is usually the case during the winter months.

LATVIAN ENTERPRISES PRODUCE POOR-QUALITY MATERIALS -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija,
25 Aug 50

A number of enterprises producing construction materials are delivering goods of a low quality and thereby causing great damage to capital construction. For example, the construction project to the Vilyanskiy Rayon Office of Communications received bricks from the Krustpils Brick Plant. Their quality was very poor and over 15 percent of the material resulted in breakage.

The same project was supplied with glass from the "Sarkandaugava" Glass Plant. The glass contained bubbles and the pieces were nonstandardized. As a result, about 25 percent of the material could not be used and was wasted.

The poor quality of materials not only raises the cost of construction, but makes it impossible to complete buildings within the proscribed periods.

CEMENT INDUSTRY NEEDS IMPROVEMENT -- Moscow Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov,
22 Sep 50

A conference of the cement industry workers took place 20-21 September in the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR. Plant directors, together with representatives of scientific research institutes, main administrations of the industry, and leading officials of the Ministry, discussed steps to be taken for a speedy fulfillment of state production plans.

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Deputy Minister P. F. Lopukhov reported on the goals of the postwar Five-Year Plan, especially in connection with government decrees concerning the new gigantic construction projects, and gave a detailed account of the work of individual enterprises, showing the reserves at the disposal of cement plants which would enable them to increase their production. A lively discussion followed the report. The directors of cement plants pledged to fulfill the state plans for cement production ahead of schedule.

P. A. Yudin, Minister of Construction Materials Industry USSR, also spoke at the conference and announced a number of concrete tasks to be fulfilled in improving the work of cement plants.

Moscow, Vechernyaya Moskva, 14 Aug 50

The tremendous growth of construction requires not only an increased output of Portland cement and other types of hydraulic and mixed cements, but a further improvement of the quality. The production of sufficient quantities of this valuable material will further the industrialization of construction, as cement is necessary for reinforced-concrete structures, which are being used more and more widely. As a basic filler for concrete, larger quantities of furnace slag, which is plentiful and cheap, should be used. Only about 25-30 percent of this waste product of the metallurgical industry is now being used.

Soviet scientists have developed a new type of hydraulic cement, called AG-cement. This product has shown excellent qualities. It hardens very quickly and acquires the necessary strength in 2-3 days. This material can be used for concrete and reinforced-concrete structures of industrial and civilian buildings and especially for high-speed construction. The organization of AG-cement production does not require large capital investments and the production process can be easily mastered.

A new type of anhydrite cement has also been developed. This cement is used as a mortar for building stone and brick walls, as plaster, and for many other purposes. Despite the advantages of anhydrite cement, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR has done nothing to develop this branch of industry.

The Academy of Sciences USSR plans to organize a special institute of engineering and construction sciences and construction materials.

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